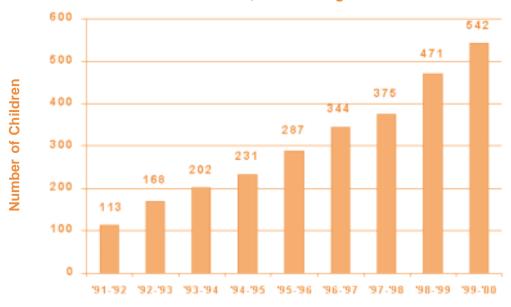
The Problem

During the 2000-2001 school year, the total time spent in North Dakota schools by full- and part-time nurses was equivalent to 18 full-time school nurses in the state. This averages to just one nurse for every 6,482 students, considerably lower than the Healthy People 2010 goal of one nurse for every 750 students.



Number of Students Eligible for Special Education Under the Department of Public Instruction's "Other Health Impairment" Category, North Dakota, 1991 Through 2000



Source: Department of Public Instruction, Special Education Annual Report

North Dakota Statistics

In North Dakota, many children have chronic health conditions that require some type of health care during the school day. Certain health conditions – such as asthma, attention deficit disorder, diabetes and epilepsy – can adversely affect educational performance, creating a need for special education services. The number of children eligible for special education services under the Department of Public Instruction's "other health impairment" eligibility category increased from 113 during the 1991-1992 school year to 542 during the 1999-2000 school year – nearly a 500 percent increase.

The Effects

Many school-age children have chronic or acute health problems that require the use of medication or other health care procedures during the school day. A few school districts in North Dakota employ nurses, while others contract with public health nurses on a part-time basis. However, most school children in North Dakota do not have regular access to a school nurse.

The Response

The North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH), has developed a work plan to address the issue of school nursing. MCH will advocate for school-nurse services, provide technical assistance to school nurses and schools as they develop health services programs, and monitor school-nurse legislative activity.



Data Sources:

- School Nurse Survey, North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health
- Special Education Annual Report, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

